

Senator Harp, Representative Geragosian and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony today.

My name is Mark E. Kovitch, Chief Financial Officer of Key Human Services, a private non profit providing an array of services to individuals with intellectual disabilities or developmental delays since 1989. I am also, a Licensed Certified Public Accountant in Connecticut and Massachusetts, with seventeen years of experience providing services in public accounting firms and private industry to not-for-profit organizations. Today, I am providing testimony regarding Governor's March 1, 2010 Deficit Mitigation Plan.

Key Human Services urges you ~~not~~ to support the cut 2% ICF/MR group homes, the increase of \$15 to \$20 monthly co-pay on individuals receiving Title 19 and suspending coverage of most over-the counter drugs. Also, I will provide some suggestions on how to increase revenue to the state.

As you know, the practice of under-funding the true cost of services has had a detrimental impact upon the provider network, as they continue to struggle with ever-increasing demands and unfunded mandates imposed upon this vitally important system of care. Per my written testimony from February 18, 2010, I detailed how the 112 providers that contracted with Department of Development Services during FY'09 lost \$23 million or 4.5% on the cost of services. For the providers that support individuals in ICF/MR group homes that are all ready losing money to have the expectation that

- d. As the State reviews the possible of closing institutions or large care sites, the State employees at these location may be able to support non-violent offenders and the federal government can provide some reimbursement.
 - e. Work with the staff of the Connecticut federal delegation to determine opportunities for federal reimbursement.
- 2) Increase the number of residents in the State of Connecticut to increase the tax basis:
- a. For benefit of in-state tuition, student needs to be employed in Connecticut for at least a year after graduation.
 - b. Tax Credit for individuals that paid out of state tuition and stayed in Connecticut for employment for two years
 - c. Work with industry and education institutions to develop a partnership for a workforce that Connecticut employers need. Students would be promised a job upon graduation.
 - d. Work with industry and ethic/cultural groups to promote Connecticut as a wonderful place to work and live. Government at all levels needs to assist individuals with the transition to working and living in Connecticut.
 - e. Provide a property tax credit for two years for new Connecticut residents both at the state and local level. This discount would be offset by the new revenue provided by the new resident.

This committee represents the expense side of the State of Connecticut income statement. What committee should I be discussing these revenue suggestions with? Can you help me with this?